GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:238
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2001
HARASSMENT OF INDIAN DIPLOMATS
GADDE RAMAMOHAN;NARESH KUMAR PUGLIA

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been fresh incidents of intimidation and assault of Indian diplomats and their families in Pakistan recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There have been two fresh incidents of intimidation and assault. On 8th November 2001 a member of the High Commission of India was accosted and threatened by a Pakistani national in Lahore, who claimed to be an ISI official. In the second incident on the same day, another staff member of the High Commission was forcibly abducted in the presence of his wife. The official was returned several hours later badly beaten and bruised.

(c) Government condemned these incidents of harassment and ill-treatment of Indian personnel and took up the matter forcefully with Government of Pakistan and lodged a strong protest both with the Foreign Office of Pakistan in Islamabad and with the Pakistani High Commission in New Delhi.

India has time and again reminded Pakistan of its obligations under the Vienna Convention as well as the bilateral Code of Conduct for Treatment of Diplomatic/Consular Personnel in India and Pakistan. Government are committed to taking all measures to ensure the welfare and well-being of their personnel in Missions abroad.